

John Alden Knight Says

Bermuda Waters Net Bonefish Records

NASSAU, Bahama Islands—There are approximately 70,000 square miles of fishing water in the general vicinity of the Bahama Islands. Of this area, only about 30,000 square miles are familiar, known areas and are used by the guides and charter-boat captains to provide sport for their guests. The other 40,000 square miles remain somewhat of a mystery. However, all this territory is good fishing water, dotted with keys and islands. There is sport to be found there both for the fishermen and the hunter.

With the rapidly growing interest in light-tackle fishing in salt water, mainly fly fishing and spinning, the bonefish is assuming a status of major importance on the agendas of most keen anglers throughout the United States and Canada. In the Bahamas there are plenty of bonefish—in fact, most of the bonefish records emanate from the waters about the Bimini Islands and Cat Cay.

Wishing to learn more of the bonefishing around the islands which lie directly to the north of Nassau, the Hon. Stafford L. Sands, chairman of the Nassau Development Board, went into a huddle with my friend, Don McCarthy, head of the Fishing Information Bureau of Nassau.

The result of this meeting is this—I flew to Nassau where Don met me. Now we are on the diesel cruiser Eustanne, out of Nassau, Capt. Milton Pearce, owner and skipper.

With the mate and a Development Board staff photographer on board and a couple of bonefish skiffs in tow, we have been fishing almost untouched waters for about a week.

Long Branch Track To Open Friday

The Ontario racing caravan, playing host to greater numbers than ever this season, moves on to the Long Branch Jockey Club on the outskirts of Toronto next Friday. The session at the popular lakeshore course, about 1½ hours' run from downtown Buffalo, will be one of 14 days, coming to a conclusion on Saturday, Aug. 29.

In addition to the top racing establishments now providing the port at Ft. Erie, there are many tables on the grounds of Long Branch, whose colorbearers have been refreshed up especially for the meeting.

The condition book for the two-week session is a stakes-studded one. Three of the headliners will carry

Our first stop was Sandy Point on Great Abaco Island. There we hired a local guide, Alfred White, and set out for the bonefish grounds. Alfred spoke rather carelessly of 16-pond fish. (The present Atlantic record is a mere 15 pounds and some ounces.)

Alfred found bonefish for us all right, plenty of bonefish. The first school, feeding industriously on the marl bottom of a shallow bay, must have held at least 100 fish. We managed to hook four or five of these before the school stopped feeding and moved away.

IT MUST BE remembered that there are no outboard motors in the out islands of the Bahamas. Those people depend entirely upon sails and sculling oars for their motive power. Thus, Alfred was not too familiar with the waters which lay more than two or three miles from his home port.

However, he is large, strong and willing to pole a boat in a high wind all day long. We cruised about 20 miles of shore line, looking over new bonefish territory. Now and then we would stop to fish a likely area and only rarely did we fail to find fish in quantity.

The next port of call was Gorda Cay. This is a tiny affair, possibly 10 miles long and three or four miles wide, surrounded by its attendant group of lesser keys. It is entirely uninhabited, save by a few wild boar and a liberal supply of white crested pigeons. On Abaco, incidentally, there are plenty of wild boar.

Here, too, at Gorda Cay we found fishing. Weather was against us and we encountered rain squalls and high winds. Even so, we had no trouble in taking bonefish from schools which numbered anywhere from 10 to 50 fish. I'd like to see Gorda Cay again some time when weather conditions are favorable.

From Gorda Cay we cruised to Mores Island. Here, there is a small settlement of, perhaps, 50 or 60 people. Again we employed a local guide, Stuart—a huge fellow who never before had ridden in a motor-driven craft.

There are bonefish grounds at

Mores Island literally by the square mile—acres upon countless acres of good feeding grounds. The schools are large, each one holding from 50 to 2 or 300 fish. We had no trouble taking bonefish, in fact we landed and released 18 in one day, hooking and losing perhaps half as many more.

AT MORES ISLAND Village we talked to the local constable. He told us of another location called Shallow Water Point, some 16 miles to the northeast. There he assured us we would find "thousands and thousands of bonefish."

Accordingly, we set sail for Shallow Water Point. This proved to be merely a collection of small keys, divided by creeks or passes which lead into broad areas of shallow swashes, ideal feeding grounds for bonefish.

Milton, our skipper, nosed his way to safe anchorage, dodging shallow sand bars. Once in the skiffs, we chose arbitrarily to fish the nearest bonefish flat.

To say that we hit the jackpot is rather an understatement. Never have I seen so many bonefish. They were all around the boat, in all sizes. Should we flush one school, another would be along to take its place in a matter of minutes.

For nearly two hours I stood in the prow of our skiff and cast a fly to cruising schools. I hooked fish and landed them; hooked them and lost them; lost flies, broke leaders, cut my fingers on the racing line, and generally had the time of my life.

We cruised the area rather thoroughly and found that it had great possibilities. Two days later, regretfully, we crept out around the shallow bars and pointed the nose of the Eustanne toward Sandy Point. I expect that we shall raise that landfall in about an hour.

Please excuse me if I cut this rather short. I know from experience what Milton's meals are like and this salt air has given me a ravenous appetite.

And now Milton tells me that dinner is ready. He, in addition to being tops as a skipper and guide, is an outstanding chef. The menu tonight includes conch salad, broiled crawfish and green turtle steak.

	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Sunday	5:30	11:35	6:05	
Monday	6:25	12:50	6:50	12:40
Tuesday	7:15	1:00	7:30	1:20
Wednesday	7:55	1:40	8:10	2:00
Thursday	8:30	2:15	8:45	2:35
Friday	9:05	2:50	9:20	3:10
Saturday	9:45	3:30	10:00	3:50
Sunday	10:25	4:10	10:45	4:35